

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07352 111235Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 TRSE-00 /071 W  
-----080717 112252Z /61

R 111219Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0253  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07352

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, UR, US  
SUBJECT: UPI STORY ON BREZHNEV'S HEALTH

1. I WAS DISMAYED TO SEE, ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNE FOR APRIL 7, A UPI STORY DATED WASHINGTON, APRIL 6, ON BREZHNEV'S HEALTH WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO "U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES." WE KNOW THAT BREZHNEV IS PERSONALLY VAIN, AND THAT MANY IN THE PARTY APPARATUS WHO BECOME AWARE OF THE UPI STORY ARE LIKELY TO SEE SOME EVIL CONSPIRACY BEHIND A STORY BASED ON USG SOURCES WHICH ASSERTS, ON THE EVE OF THE VANCE VISIT AND BREZHNEV'S SUBSEQUENT TRIP TO BONN, THAT LEONID IL'ICH SUFFERS FROM EMPHYSEMA, HEART IRREGULARITIES, CHRONIC LEUKEMIA AND GOUT.

2. REASONED USG CRITICISM OF THE DISMAL SOVIET PERFORMANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONE THING; LURID TALES TO THE PRESS BY USG OFFICIALS ABOUT BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE QUITE ANOTHER. I SUGGEST WORD BE PASSED TO OUR KREMLIN WATCHERS TO STAY ON BACKGROUND AND AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO STORIES WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY BE GRATUITOUSLY INSULTING TO INDIVIDUAL SOVIET LEADERS, ESPECIALLY BREZHNEV. TOON  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HEALTH, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOSCOW07352  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SOPN, UR, US, UPI, (BREZHNEV, LEONID IL'ICH)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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